
Title: Laina and her Pact

Author: Shardak Mardas

The night had begun with
a wisp of warm air
floating through the tidal
currents to the great icy
isle of the north.

Perhaps this was to be
some kind of an omen
for things to come, but
who would have known.

I had spent the entirety
of my day hunting with
friends and allies alike,
leaving nary all to pleased
with them yet regardless
with a pack fair to full
of gold. So then had I
came to rest, and when I
had awoken to that
breeze and checked those
ravens bearing messages
to me, astonishment
crossed my face. Twas
said, by many, that Caina
had been placed under the
rule of the Moonglow
Militia, that they had
occupied the city. Well, I
came to find this
preposterous, and ifin
true, last for a short
time indeed. Picking up
my cloak and settling hat
unto my head, I walked
forth from the Casino
where I had been resting
and into the snowy
streets. An eerieness
befell me as I did this,
one I could not quite
place... so forth, I
dismissed it and took up
my staff and proceeded
to venture to the tower
of bones, Golgotha. Upon
the tower steps indeed
stood several of the
Militiamen I had come to

know in my days working
by their sides. Giving
them a slight salute, I
ventured into the tower
and was immediately set
upon by those far so
untrusting of myself. A
few words passed, and I
came to lean upon the
stone walls of the tower,
bones crushing beneath as
I stood and watched the
goings on. Little did I hear
save of the usual banter
I would expect to occur,
and so gave little heed
to it all. A witch came
so to happen past, and
words were crossed by
her and the “occupiers”
of the city. All through
and through, I still came
to find little of interest
about this occupied tower
save the amusing
fearfulness of those
militiamen at being in this
unholy place.

Journeying back to rest
within the confines of
the Casino, I found a
fitful rest and so awoke
later that eve with a
multitude of ravens upon
the windowsills. Reading
each in turn, I came upon
a message sent to me
by... an acquaintance, who
told of an interesting
conversation that had
occurred between the
ancient wyrm Laina and
those humans of Rivendel.
So it would appear that
from this letter I
gleamed, that the mage
Xerot, bearer of the
lantern that housed the
Shadow Flame, used a
grand spell of invisibility
of one we know naught,
to traverse unto the
temple that houses the
flame, hence passing the
guard within unnoticed.
The guard, as it was
known, was but a Shadow

of the entree, who would
attack its owner. This
temple, as well she had
spoken, lay on the highest
peak of Sosaria. Also she
had stated that one of
those of the recent
shadow assassins had
attacked her, and then
twas that the letter
stopped. Well, I so
thought to myself, a
most interesting turn of
events. So then, I
stepped forth from the
Casino once more and
headed towards the
tower. Not far off from,
I came upon the wyrm
Laine toying with the
human Thoma, who seemed
all but enthralled in her
charms. I watched on with
a sort of pity for the
poor chap, and listened as
well. It seemed that a
tome of illusions that the
wyrm needed was in
Caina, and she wished for
Thoma to find it for her.
Giving the lad some
advice of to the lass
being one who would
rather eat him than any
other action, I gave him
a swift smack to the
back of his head and
proceeded on, muttering
of to wyrms and idiot
humans. Venturing into
the tower, I strode up
the steps to my usual
seat by the window of
the 3rd level, looking out
over the city I had known
so long as home and
sighing in remembrance of
times spent. Twas then
that I looked before me,
and saw a tome sitting
on the table before me.
Picking it up, I read the
cover; "On Illusions".
Thinking to myself,
perchance that this was
the tome that wyrm had
been seeking, I sent a
raven out to Azalin, the

Lich Lord, and awaited so
a reply. That so
eventually came in the
action of a door opening
before me, admitting
entrance into his
chambers. Within, a few
others sat with at the
long table before this
great being. Moving
forward and besides him,
I handed over the book
and awaited as Oblivion
came forth to the Lich
to tell him indeed that
was the book sought
after. So then did he
bide me fetch the wyrm,
to make a pact with the
ancient creature in
exchange for the book it
sought.

Journeying to Leigh's, I
quickly searched through
the boxes within until
finally I had found the
rune I needed, that to
the ancient wyrms layer
in the depths of Despise.
Directing my magic's into
the ancient symbol
adorning the piece of
wood, I found myself in
the depths of Despise,
and with a spawn of fire
staring straight down at
me. Coughing slightly, I
ran like the dickens from
the thing, but far too
slow as soon enough it
had struck me down with
a fist of flame that
burnt my body in
numerous places. My
spirit formulating about
my body, I continued the
rest of the way to the
Wyrms layer and turned
my corporal head up to
stare at the dragon as
it lay coiled about its
heap of treasure. Soon
enough, it awoke to my
wails and returned me
back to a more solid
form. Inlisting its help, I
soon enough regained my

belongings and fell into a conversation with the creature.

We spoke so, of the book and I told of our wish to perform a trade with the beast, and asked of what it was willing in trade for the item. Its reply brought a smirk to my lips, as I had remembered the words that raven had brought me far earlier. She had offered us the lantern, but I knew forth that it would be useless as any other lantern if in her plan, which so was to bond with the Shadow Flame, took place. So then, I told her of that and said such negotiations could indeed be furthered if she so would come with I to Golgotha and meet with my master, the Lich Lord, that they two might discuss such. So we journeyed forth into a gate of mystic energy she had summoned forth upon my a rune I had been carrying, and we came to the stone tower soon enough. Before entering, I had taken notice no longer where there Militiamen about, and so forth saw that indeed the “occupation” had been broken. Venturing forth upon its steps, a sort of darkness befell me and wence I awoke once again, I quickly hurried to where my master so waited. Talking so went on, that the wyrm was on the roof, and I offered to fetch her after telling of all that had passed between us in those humid caverns of despise. At that time, Mesostopheles had entered

the room and whispered
words of caution to the
Lich Lord concerning the
beast. So then, I awaited
till Azalin bid me forth
and so exited to the
roof, bidding that Laina
would come with to see
my master. And thus she
did, and negotiations went
forth most of the
remaining eve, by which
time I began to tire
greatly.

So spoken of in these
negotiations, that I might
tell you of before I
journey once more to the
realm as another of the
Moonglow militia raid our
fair city. Well, I prattle
on... in the end, this
pact was made... for so,
when the wyrm achieved
the means to break
Xerots magic's of
invisibility, she would so
allow for those of the
Order to learn of the
magic's he had used and
so stay invisible. But now
I must go, and bid thee
farewell... I do so hope
this was of some aid in
the understanding in that
eves occurrences...

Walk in Darkness.

- Shardak Mardas